

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of providing a customer remote access to a group of editors through a central provider with the customer, provider and editors being linked by a computer network, said customers requiring modification of digital images, said method comprising the steps of:

transferring from the customer to the provider the digital image along with the customer's instructions for modifying the digital image;
selecting an editor to perform the modifications;
transferring the digital image and the associated instructions to the selected editor;
and
providing the customer with access to the digital image [[back]] after the modifications have been made by the editor.

2. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the instructions are in the form of typed text.

3. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the instructions are in the form of graphics overlaid on the digital image.

4. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the selection of the editor is made via a bidding process.

5. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 4 wherein the provider selects the editor based on the bids.

6. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 4 wherein the customer selects the editor based on the bids.

7. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the selection of the editor is made based on the editor's availability.

8. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the selection of the editor is made based on the type and complexity of the work and the skill of the editor.

9. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the selection of the editor is made based on an order deadline supplied by the customer.

10. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein selection of the editor is made by the provider notifying a plurality of editors about the requested modifications to the digital image and the price that will be paid to the editor to make those modifications and the first editor to accept the offer is selected.

11. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the provider determines the fee to be paid by the customer.

12. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the customer is charged a fee by the provider which is higher than the provider pays to the editor for the modifications to the digital image.

13. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein customer is provided with an interface including:

- a region for displaying a rendering of the digital image; and
- a region for inputting textual instructions.

14. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein said interface further includes an electronic drawing tool for adding electronic marks to the rendered digital image to indicate the location and/or type of modifications to be made.

15. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein customer is provided with an interface which includes a list of selectable editing requests and which permits inputting of textual instructions for supplementing a selected editing request.

16. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein after the image and instructions are transferred from the customer to the provider, the provider generates a ~~cost~~ estimate price quote to perform the requested modifications.

17. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the ~~cost-estimate~~ price quote is communicated to the customer for approval.

18. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the ~~cost-estimate~~ price quote is generated algorithmically.

Claims 19-28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) A method of allowing a customer to obtain edits of a digital image from a remote location comprising the steps of:

transferring from a customer site to a remote provider site over a network a digital image along with instructions related to modifying the image;

at the provider site, generating a ~~cost-estimate~~ price quote to perform the requested modifications and transmitting the ~~estimate~~ price quote to the customer;

communicating an authorization from the customer to the provider to perform the modifications if the ~~estimate~~ price quote is acceptable to the customer;

modifying the digital image in accordance with the instructions; and
providing the customer access to the modified image.

30. (original) A method as recited in claim 29 wherein the instructions are in the form of typed text.

31. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 30 wherein customer is provided with an interface including:

- a region for displaying a rendering of the digital image; and
- a region for inputting textual instructions.

32. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 29 wherein the ~~cost estimate~~ price quote is generated algorithmically.

33. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 29 wherein the provider sends back a request to the customer for additional instructions related to the image.

34. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 29 wherein the customer is charged a fee by the provider for modifying the image.

35. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 29 further including the step of generating a hard copy reproduction of the modified image.

36. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 29 further including the step of permitting a third party access to the modified image.

37. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 29 wherein the type of modification to the image is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) merging a new digital image with the original digital image;
- b) colorizing the image;
- c) adding motion effects to the image;
- d) changing the background in the image; and
- e) removing an object in the image.

38. (currently amended) A method of allowing a customer to utilize the services of a remote editor to modify a digital image comprising the steps of:

transferring from a customer site to a remote provider site over a network a digital image along with instructions related to modifying the image;

at the provider site, generating a ~~cost estimate~~ price quote to perform the requested modifications and transmitting the ~~estimate~~ price quote to the customer;

communicating an authorization from the customer to the provider to perform the modifications if the ~~estimate~~ price quote is acceptable to the customer;

electronically transferring the digital image and the instructions from the provider to a remote editor;

at the editor's site, modifying the digital image in accordance with the instructions; and

providing the customer access to the modified image.

39. (original) A method as recited in claim 38 wherein the instructions are in the form of typed text.

40. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 39 wherein customer is provided with an interface including:

a region for displaying a rendering of the digital image; and

a region for inputting textual instructions.

41. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 38 wherein the ~~cost estimate~~ price quote is generated algorithmically.

42. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 38 wherein the provider sends back a request to the customer for additional instructions related to the image.

43. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 38 wherein the customer is charged a fee by the provider for modifying the image and wherein that fee is higher than the amount which is charged by the editor to the provider for making the modification.

44. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 38 further including the step of generating hard copy reproductions of the modified image.

45. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 38 further including the step of permitting third party access to the modified image.

46. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 38 wherein the selection of the editor is made via a bidding process.

47. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 46 wherein the provider selects the editor based on the bids.

48. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 38 wherein the selection of the editor is made based on the editor's availability.

49. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 38 wherein the selection of the editor is made based on the type and complexity of the work and the skill of the editor.

50. (withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 38 wherein the type of modification to the image is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) merging a new digital image with the original digital image;
- b) colorizing the image;
- c) adding motion effects to the image;
- d) changing the background in the image; and
- e) removing an object in the image.

Claims 51-57. (cancelled)

58. (new) A method of providing a customer remote access to a group of editors through a central provider with the customer, provider and editors being linked by a computer

network, said customers requiring modification of digital images, said method comprising the following steps performed at the provider:

- receiving from the customer a digital image along with the customer's instructions for modifying the digital image;
- selecting an editor to perform the modifications;
- transferring the digital image and the associated instructions to the selected editor;
- and
- providing the customer with access to the digital image after the modifications have been made by the editor.

59. (new) A method as recited in claim 58 wherein the instructions are in the form of typed text.

60. (new) A method as recited in claim 58 wherein the instructions are in the form of graphics overlaid on the digital image.

61. (new) A method as recited in claim 58 wherein the selection of the editor is made via a bidding process.

62. (new) A system for modifying digital images in response to a request from a customer, said system comprising:

- a data input device located at the customer for receiving a digital image and instructions for modifying the image from the customer;
- a provider interface;
- an image modification device located at each of a plurality of editor locations for modifying an image in accordance with associated instructions; and
- a computer network for connecting the customer data input device with the provider interface and for connecting the provider interface with the editors, said system being arranged so that the provider receives from the customer a digital image along with the customer's instructions for modifying the digital image, said provider transferring the digital image and the associated instructions to a selected editor for modification and

thereafter providing the customer with access to the digital image after the modifications have been made by the editor.

63. (new) A system as recited in claim 62 wherein the instructions are in the form of typed text.

64. (new) A system as recited in claim 62 wherein the instructions are in the form of graphics overlaid on the digital image.

65. (new) A system as recited in claim 62 wherein the selection of the editor is made via a bidding process.